By the right Honorable the Lords, Commissioners for the Office of Earle Marshall of ENGLAND.

THE Kings most Excellent *Maiestie* being informed of many great abuses, offered to the Nobilitie and Gentrie of this Kingdome, aswell by the sinister practice of certayne mechanicall Trades-men, as Painters, Glasiers, Stone-cutters, Caruers, and many other Artificers, trading in Armoury, who presuming, without authoritie, to intermeddle with the marshalling of Armes, the erecting of Monuments, whereon Armes are to be fixed, Coats quartered, due differences to be obserued, being mysteries of Honour and out of their element, by reason whereof many great errors are daily committed, to the great offence and preiudice of our ancient Nobilitie and Gentrie of this Kingdome, and to the breeding of many ambiguous doubts and questions, which may happen in their Discents and Issues in future times, as also by a generall neglect of the Nobilitie and Gentrie themselues, in the omission of Funerals, and other ceremoniall Rites heretofore vsed, which are now almost or altogether laid aside. For remedie of which abuses and neglects, his *Maiestie* out of his Gracious and Royall disposition, so much tendering the preseruation of the good estate of his said Nobilitie and Gentrie of this Kingdome, esteeming them the principall Pillars of this Land, who in all former Ages haue beene thought fit to be distinguished from the vulgar and meaner sort and ranke of people, and thereby haue beene respected and renowmed thorowout all Christendome: Hath commanded vs his Commissioners for the Office of the Earle Marshall of ENGLAND, to looke into the aforesaid abuses and neglects: whereupon, we the said Lords, Commissioners, (*viz.* EDWARD, Earle of *Worcester*, Lord Keeper of his *Maiesties* Priuie Seale; LODOVICK, Duke of *Lenox*, Lord Steward of his *Maiesties* Houshold; GEORGE, Marques of *Buckingham*, Master of his *Maiesties* Horse; CHARLES, Earle of *Nottingham*, Lord high Admirall of England; WILLIAM, Earle of *Pembroke*, Lord Chamberlaine of his *Maiesties* Houshold; and THOMAS, Earle of *Arundell*) hauing taken due and considerate deliberation of the Premisses, and finding that by reason of the daily abuses and neglects aforesaid, that not only his *Maiesties* Office, but also his Officers of Armes, the Kings Heraulds and Pursuiuants, being Officers of Honour, whose chiefest support and maintenance hath euer depended vpon the performance of the said Funerall Rites and Obsequies of the Nobilitie and Gentrie of this Land, taking at all such times Certificates of the Matches, Issues, and times of Decease of the Estates aforesaid, with their Armes, which of right they ought to beare, without wrong doing to any, and from whom his *Maiestie* henceforward will expect a more strict account then of late time hath beene had. By Vertue therefore of his *Maiesties* Commission to vs directed vnder the great Seale of England, bearing date the seuenth day of Februarie, in the fifteenth yeere of his *Maiesties* Reigne of *England*, *France*, and *Ireland*, and of *Scotland* the one and fiftieth, Doe order, decree, and ordayne, that aswell for the good of the said Nobilitie and Gentrie of this Kingdome, as otherwise, That from henceforth all Noble men, Baroners, Knights, Esquires, and Gentlemen of eminent Place, Office, Birth, and Qualitie, that shall be either silently buried in the Night time by Torch-light, or otherwise, by Day or Night time without the attendance of an Officer of Armes, shall neuertheless immediately after the death and buriall of euery such Defunct, returne a true Certificate of the Matches, Issues, and times of Decease, with their Armes, which of right they bore, for the which they shall pay into the said Office of Armes, such Fees as we haue and doe hereby set downe and appoint, *viz.* *Euery* GENTLEMAN, *vsing Funerall Scutchions at his buriall, three pounds sixe shillings and eight pence, and vsing none, fortie shillings. Euery* ESQVIRE *of Coat Armour, sixe pounds thirteene shillings and foure pence. Euery* KNIGHT, *ten pounds. Euery* BARONET *and* BANNERET, *thirteene pounds, sixe shillings and eight pence. Euery* BARON *and* BARONESSE, *that ought to haue a great Banner and Bannerols, fiue and twentie pounds. Euery* BISHOP, *fiue and twentie pounds. Euery* VICOVNT *and* VICOVNTESSE, *thirtie pounds. Euery* EARLE *and* COVNTESSE, *fiue and thirtie pounds. Euery* MARQVES *and* MARCHIONESSE, *fortie pounds. Euery* DVKE *and* DVCHESSE, *fiue and fortie pounds: and, Euery* ARCH-BISHOP, *fiue and fortie pounds.* All which said seuerall summes of Money, are to be paid to the said Officers of Armes, or their Assignes, being orderly demanded after the buriall of euery such Defunct, by the Heires, Executors, or Administrators, of all and euery Persons of the degrees aforesaid. The which Certificates and Fees, if they shall refuse to returne and pay, We shall, vpon complaint made by the Officers of Armes, to vs, or to the Earle Marshall of England for the time being, take such further order therein, as shall be thought meet and expedient for the accomplishment of his *Maiesties* commandement. And further, We the Lords, Commissioners aforesaid, doe straightly charge and command all the said Officers of Armes, which now are or hereafter shall be, to take a true Certificate of the Matches, Issues, and times of Decease of all the Estates aforesaid, with the Armes, which of right they ought to beare, without wrong doing to any (they paying such Fees as are before set downe by these Presents) and likewise, the like Certificates of all Gentlemen, whose estates exceede not one

thouſand Marks, to enter them as exactly as the reſt, paying no Fees at all, which Certificates ſhall be truely and carefully Regiſtred, and ſafely kept in a faire Booke in the Office of Armes, as an authentique Record, which in future time may determine and end many queſtions that hereafter may ariſe, as by many examples of late times haue beene ſeene. Prouided alwayes, that if any of the inferiour degrees aboueſaid, *viz.* Knights, Eſquires, or Gentlemen, ſhall pretend pouertie or diſabilitie, and ſhall make the ſame appeare by Petition vnto the Earle Marſhall of England or the Lords, Commiſſioners for the ſaid Office for the time being, ſuch order ſhall be taken therein, as that the Gentlemen ſhall be releeued, and the Office of Armes ſatisfied. Neuertheleſſe, if any of the degrees aforeſaid ſhall require to haue their Funerals honourably ſolemnized with Heraulds attendance, and ſuch other ceremonies as haue in former times beene vſed, that then they ſhall pay all ſuch Fees as heretofore haue beene accuſtomed. And for remedie of the former groſſe abuſes, which are daily committed by Painters, that keepe open ſhops of Armourie, and doe deuiſe and giue forth Armes at their pleaſures, aſſuming the names of Heraulds Painters for their more countenance therein: Wee doe order and will, and in his *Maieſties* name ſtraightly charge them, and euery of them, aſwell within the Citie of *London*, as in all other Cities and Countries within this Realme, that from henceforth they preſume not to paint any Armes vpon Coaches, or elſewhere, or Funerall worke, or to make or paint any Diſcents or Pedegrees, or giue any trick of Coats of Armes out of their Books and Shops for any of the Eſtates aforeſaid, without the allowance and approbation of the Kings of Armes, to whom it doth chiefly appertayne. And for remedie of ſuch abuſes as are committed by Maſons, which commonly make Tombs and Monuments, and doe ingraue diuers Armes and Matches, and ſet forth in their Inſcriptions falſe Genealogies with vaine and friuolous Titles, ſetting vp Coronets vpon ſome vnfitting and impertinent to the qualities of the perſon whom they demonſtrate: Wee charge them alſo and euery of them, by the immediate authoritie which we hold from his *Maieſtie*, and doe thereby order, that they ſhall not from henceforth ingraue, or cauſe to bee ingrauen, painted or ſet forth any Armes, Genealogies, Epitaphs, or Inſcriptions, or make any Monument, without it be firſt ſeene and allowed by the Kings and Officers of Armes whom it doth concerne, the Copie whereof with the forme of the Monument, to be drawne and entered into a Booke, which Booke ſhall be called, *The Booke of Monuments*, and be kept in the Office of Armes for euer, to the end if euer afterward any thing ſhould happen to be added or diminiſhed, or the Monument tranſlated or defaced, as many are and haue beene, yet the truth may appeare by the ſaid Regiſter Booke. And whereas we are further aduertiſed, that diuers Glaſiers, Gold-ſmiths, Cutters, Grauers, and Caruers, and other Artificers, doe vſually paint in Glaſſe, graue in Metall, and cut Seales of Armes, carue in Timber, and ſuch like diuers Armes, Coates, and Creſts, without any warrant or knowledge of the ſame to be true and iuſtifiable, to the great wrong and preiudice of many Noble and ancient Families of this Kingdome. Wee doe hereby order likewiſe, and in his *Maieſties* name ſtraightly charge and command them and euery of them, and all other Artificers whatſoeuer, to forbeare to paint in Glaſſe, cut Seales, or otherwiſe graue in Metall, or carue in Timber or otherwiſe, any matter of Armourie, before the draft thereof be firſt ſeene and allowed by the Kings and Officers of Armes, whom it ſhall concerne, vnleſſe it be of the Nobilitie whoſe Coats and Quarterings are eminent and well knowne, or ſuch of the ancient Gentrie as haue beene formerly viewed, approued, and allowed by the Prouinciall Kings of Armes, in their ſeuerall Viſitations, within their Prouinces. Giuen vnder our Hands and Seales, the tenth day of *Nouember*, in the ſixteenth yeere of his *Maieſties* Reigne of *England*, *France*, and *Ireland*, and of *Scotland* the fiftie two, At WHITE-HALL. *Anno Domini* 1618.

E. Worceſter. | *Lenox.* | *G. Buckingham.* | *Nottingham.* | *Pembroke.* | *T. Arundell.*